created for men, and men are not recruited for the posts. I have only to say that, unless efficiency and merit irrespective of *Caste*, *Creed* or *position* of His Highness' subjects is made the guiding principle in the ordering of the Public Service, an honest, loyal and competent Public Service would be an impossibility.

Agriculture.

The next point that I wish to touch upon is the working of a few important Departments. I shall take first *Agriculture*. It is admitted on all hands that agriculture is the mainstay of our State. The report on the Administration of Cochin for the year 1100 M. E. says under the heading, '*Economic Development*' "In a State where the majority of the people subsist on agriculture, the importance of paying close attention to agricultural development cannot be over-estimated." Is the Government bestowing sufficient attention to this all-important industry? What are our agricultural experts doing now? Where is the Laboratory where these experts can do the work, for which they were appointed long ago? The provisions made in the present budget for the construction of a Laboratory building in the Central Farm at Ollukkara goes no great way. Are these experts touring and teaching our ryots the various principles and practices, which the ryots ought to know? Are the experts analysing the soils in various places, so that the ryots may be taught to raise the best crop suitable to the soil? Are the ryots taught to make manures cheap and simple? I again ask what has the Government done for agriculture from 1100. Is it not ridiculous that these high-paid agricultural experts are asked to waste their time in superintending Panchayat work? Why not separate the Panchayat, and put it under a separate Head, so that both the Departments may fare better? This separation was the burden of the non official cry in the First Council, and now this separation is recommended by the Special Finance Committee also. After this separation is effected, the Government have to reorganise this Department by establishing the necessary Laboratory and by appointing, if necessary, some more officers, who would educate the ryots *in their own villages*, both theoretically and practically, the science and art of agriculture.

As regards irrigation, it seems to be nobody's concern in our State. In the last budget, provision was made for the appointment of a special Engineer to investigate this all-important and vital question. But nothing has been heard of it till now. I cannot imagine a more important subject for the consideration of an agricultural State, as ours than this. Yet the indifference shown by the Government is nothing short of callous.

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